

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Application**

Claims 1-19 and 21-43 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 1-19 and 21-43 stand rejected. Claims 25, 28, 31 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this amendment, claims 25, 28, 31, 33, 38 and 40 have been amended. Claims 44-46 are hereby presented for consideration. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Claims 39 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

### **II. Claim Objections**

Claim 33 was objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 33 for further clarification and respectfully requests that the objection now be withdrawn.

### **III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 38-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 38 and 40 and respectfully requests that the rejections now be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 39 and 41 have been canceled, rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

### **IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103**

Claims 1, 9, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 38 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,065,149 to Marsh, et al. (hereafter, "Marsh").

Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33-37 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,893,181 to Yeomans (hereafter, "Yeomans").

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,271,096 to Cook (hereafter, "Cook").

Claims 7, 11 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Yeomans and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,425 to Hiroaki (hereafter, "Hiroaki").

Applicant submits that claims 39 and 41 have been canceled, rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An image processing apparatus comprising:  
input device which inputs an image sensed by image sensing device;  
acquisition device which acquires at least one pixel value pair based on a source pixel value obtained from an image and a destination pixel value obtained from an image;  
determination device which determines an image processing parameter for converting one pixel value of the pixel value pair into the other pixel value of said pixel value pair, on the basis of the acquired pixel value pair;  
registration device which registers the image processing parameter determined by said determination device; and  
conversion device which converts pixel values of an input image input by said input device on the basis of the image processing parameter registered by said registration device, and outputs a converted image as an output image.”

Applicant respectfully submits that Marsh and Yeomans, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest an image processing apparatus comprising a “registration device which registers the image processing parameter determined by said determination device; and conversion device which converts pixel values of an input image input by said input device on the basis of the image processing parameter registered by said registration device, and outputs a converted image as an output image”, as recited in at least independent claim 1. Independent claim 21 recites similar features to those of independent claim 1 as described herein.

With respect to the distinguishing feature, the Office Action asserts that Marsh discloses the above feature in column 7, lines 11-27 (serializer module 19 and LUT module 17). However, the cited portion of Marsh merely discloses that:

“The LUT module 17 receives two parallel streams of external data, each of fixed width such as 32 bits, from the DIMA 15 as shown. A group of four bits (more generally, J bits) of the external data received is interrogated, the number of "on" bits having a chosen polarity, either 0 or 1, is counted and a look-up table is consulted to determine the ordered pair (b0,b1) of bits (or ordered set of K bits with K smaller than J) that will determine a pixel value of the document image to be displayed on the video screen of the CRT module 21.”

Paragraph 0091 of the Specification of the present invention recites that “a registration operation for registering the generated color conversion lists or changed image conversion parameters ... assign[s] names to them.... In the registration operation, the color conversion list or color conversion parameters may be registered by designating an image sensing mode whose image reproduction parameters are to be changed, and executing the parameter change process.”

Marsh does not teach or suggest registering a parameter, and a conversion device which converts pixel values of an input image on the basis of the registered parameter.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 21 are distinguishable over Marsh for at least the reasons discussed above.

Furthermore, independent claim 22 recites, *inter alia*:

“An apparatus for generating a color conversion table, comprising:  
storage device which stores first and second images, pixel values of which are expressed on an N-dimensional color space;  
generation device which generates an N-dimensional color conversion table on the basis of differences between pixel values of corresponding pixels in the first and second images; and  
adjustment device which adjusts generation of table values of the color conversion table by said generation device so that a change amount of a pixel value defined by the color conversion table generated by said generation device does not exceed a predetermined value.”

Applicant respectfully submits that Marsh and Yeomans, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest an apparatus for generating a color conversion table, comprising an “adjustment device which adjusts generation of table values of the color conversion table by said generation device so that a change amount of a pixel value defined by the color conversion table generated by said generation device does not exceed a predetermined value”, as recited in at least independent claim 22. Independent claim 34 recites similar features to those of independent claim 22 as described herein.

With respect to the distinguishing feature, the Office Action asserts that Marsh discloses the above feature in column 7, line 28-column 8, line 40. However, the cited portion of Marsh merely discloses that:

“the LUT module 17 accepts a group of four bits from the DIMA 15, counts the number of "on" bits in the group, and issues an appropriate

ordered pair (b0, b1) of bits in parallel at the two output terminals of the LUT module 17.”

Marsh does not teach or suggest adjusting the generation of table values of the color conversion table so that a change amount of a pixel value does not exceed a predetermined value.

Furthermore, Yeomans, Cook and Hiroaki fail to cure the deficiencies of Marsh as discussed above.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 21, 22 and 34 are distinguishable over Marsh, Yeomans, Cook and Hiroaki for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 21, 22 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend, either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

#### **V. Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 25, 28, 31 and 32 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As indicated by the Examiner, claims 25, 28 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above, Applicant believes that claims 25, 28 and 31 are allowable.

#### **VI. New Claims**

Claims 44-46 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, each of claims 44-46 depends from independent claim 1 either directly or

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indirectly. Accordingly, claims 44-46 are also believed patentable over the cited references (i.e., Marsh, Yeomans, Cook and Hiroaki) for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 1.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

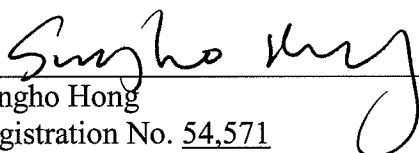
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5108. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5108. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: February 25, 2008

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